Trees on Maine Street

The Project Canopy Bulletin

Jan-Feb 2014

Project Canopy Announces Over $104,000 in Community Forestry Grants

Project Canopy, a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013 Project Canopy Assistance Grants. A total of $104,743.00 was awarded in 6 Planning and Education grants and 11 Tree planting and Maintenance Grants. Planning Grants were awarded to Androscoggin Land Trust, Lake Auburn Watershed Neighborhood Association, Lewiston, Old Orchard Beach, Vinalhaven Land Trust and Wilton. Planting grants were awarded to the Alna Volunteer Fire Department, Camden, Cape Elizabeth, Houlton, Life Enrichment Advancing People, the Longfellow School, Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association, Inc., Rockport, Topsham, Veazie and Yarmouth. Project Canopy received a total of 27 applications, with a total grant request of $185,510.

Project Canopy Assistance Grants are available to state, county, and municipal governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry projects and programs. Planting projects increase the health and livability of communities through sound tree planting and maintenance, while planning and education projects support sustainable community forestry management, and efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of trees and forests. All grants require a 50% match from the grant recipient in cash or in-kind services.

Over the last several years, the Longfellow school has worked to limit erosion on the school grounds through responsible landscape design. To retain soil on slopes surrounding the school and play areas, trees have been planted, rain swales and sediment ponds installed, and reclaimed granite stairs placed in a way that encourages student play. However, with extremely heavy rains, stormwater still escapes the redeveloped areas. With this Project Canopy grant, the school plans to install two rain gardens at the end of the current sequence of sediment ponds. Students from Longfellow and Deering High School's greening club will assist with the planning and installation.

In Old Orchard Beach, the goal is to develop the Milliken Mill Woods as a multi-use forestry space over the next few years that will inform both residents and visitors about the importance of stewardship of woodlands. This grant will help the town develop and begin to implement a forestry management plan, including public access trails with information signage, active forestry with an emphasis on long term stewardship, wildlife habitat, invasive species control and protection of water quality. The Pathway Alternative Education Program is looking at developing opportunities for their students to incorporate their learning goal through "project-based learning." "Our high school students will greatly prosper from a multi-disciplinary, hands on approach to learning," says Mark Knowles, Alternative Education Director. "Our intent is to provide actual man hours of conservation work, manage other school volunteers and to work to inform others of this important ongoing project."

The Town of Houlton plans to revitalize its downtown by conducting a downtown street tree inventory, developing a management plan, removing unhealthy trees in the business district, and replacing them with new, more appropriate species. "A lot of hard working local volunteers and civic groups use our downtown for farmer's markets and other retail promotions. The canopy of trees that are like an umbrella to shield the sidewalks when it's raining or snowing make it more desirable to shop downtown Houlton, Maine," explains Andrew Mooers of Mooers Realty. "All ages of the local population benefit from planting trees and watching them grow. Trees know the meaning of the word patience, and a community that plants them shows they're in it for the long haul, committed to the future and to the next generation."

Project Canopy is funded by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program. The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program was authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL95-313) and revised by the 1990 Farm Bill (PL101-624) to promote natural resource management in populated areas and improve quality of life.

PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter
http://www.forestsformainesfuture.org/new-from-the-woods/

News and Updates

State Foresters offer tips for dealing with storm damaged trees

AUGUSTA - The recent ice storm caused substantial damage across Maine. After heat, power, and other utilities have been restored, property owners will be faced with the issue of what to do with ice-covered trees. The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF)'s Bureau of Forestry offers several tips and helpful guidance to property owners faced with question about what to do with ice-covered trees, limbs and branches.

- Trees and branches on homes and around power lines- Homeowners obviously need to find immediate solutions for trees and branches on their homes. Branches and trees on power lines should be dealt with by calling local power companies. Even if a hanging limb is clear of power and utility wires, homeowners should assess the severity of the damage before trying to repair or remove the branch.
- Trees covered with ice - Make a potentially dangerous situation even more so. Do not work around limbs that have broken off (or partially broken off) and are hung up in a tree crown. These can break off at any time with devastating force. Contact a licensed and insured arborist.
- Injured trees requiring climbing or chainsaw work - Call a licensed arborist for help. Arborists are tree-care professionals who are trained to assess and correct storm damaged trees. They also have the experience needed to diagnose how much of a tree can or should be saved. Homeowners should be wary of those offering fly-by-night, emergency tree-cutting services.

Advice for trees that do not pose a threat:

- Wait until the ice has melted to perform tree work. Do not try to remove it by shaking branches free. In most cases the safest course of action is to let nature take its course. Attempting to remove it while it is still covered with ice can cause more damage and breakage than leaving it alone. Ice accumulation is hardest on broad-leaved, deciduous trees, especially ones that had a defect.
- Bent over trees, particularly birches, will often recover once the ice melts.

A list of licensed arborists that can be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/arborist/ArboristList.shtml

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Ice storm fallout: Possibility of dangerous insects, Maine entomologist says

By Keith Edwards, Kennebec Journal

AUGUSTA — They're on Maine's doorstep, if they're not here, undetected, already. And they want to eat or otherwise destroy your trees.

And the sooner Asian longhorn beetles can be detected, the less impact the tree-killing invasive insects will have on Maine's forests, a state entomologist told members of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine gathered at the Maine Agricultural Trades Show Wednesday.

Allison Kanoti, an entomologist for the Maine Forest Service, said landowners hit by the recent ice storm have a golden opportunity, especially if they have maple trees — an Asian longhorn beetle favorite snack and dwelling — that fell to the storm.

"If you had ice storm damage, you should take the opportunity to survey those storm damaged trees, for Asian longhorn beetles," Kanoti said on the second day of the three-day 73rd annual Maine Agricultural Trades Show at the Augusta Civic Center. She warned landowners to be careful to make sure they don't get hit by falling trees damaged by the ice storm themselves.

She said pool filters could be a good place to check for them, too.

The good news is if someone finds one, it'll be Maine's first. But the destructive bugs with a penchant for hardwoods such as maple, birch, ash, and willow, have been reported for some time in western Massachusetts.

"One of the reasons we're concerned with it is it is basically at our doorstep," Kanoti said. "Another reason (early detection is important) is this pest is considered eradicable. The earlier we detect it, the less resources we'll have to spend on finding it and trying to eradicate it."

She said New Jersey successfully eradicated Asian longhorn beetles, and the city of Boston is soon expected eradicate the wood-boring beetle, which is believed to have come to the United States in wood packing material used to import goods from Asian countries.

She directed landowners, farmers and other attendees to informational websites for more information about the pests and how to identify them: albmaine.org and maine.gov/alb.

The beetles are glossy black with white spots on their wings, and antennae at least the length of their body which have black and white bands. Females chew into trees and deposit their eggs. The larvae feed in the tree for a year, on the bark and leaves, and later on the sapwood of the tree just under the bark, then bore out as adults, leaving round exit holes.

Kanoti also described threats posed to Maine's forests including the emerald ash borer, the hemlock woolly adelgid, winter moth, and spruce budworm.

She assured landowners forests are resilient.

A devastating infestation of spruce budworms is coming — and we need to be ready

Bob Wagner, a University of Maine forestry professor, describes Maine's upcoming spruce budworm infestation as a slow-moving hurricane. The state's large landowners, forestry experts and policymakers know it's coming and can track its path south from Canada. They estimate the pest will start destroying forest stands in northern Maine within the next two to four years. And they know from previous experience that the damage to the forest products industry and, therefore, jobs could be extensive.

That is, if the state doesn't prepare and then act.

So the University of Maine, Maine Forest Service and landowners with the Maine Forest Products Council are putting together a disaster preparedness plan. The document will hopefully be ready in the early summer and will identify the anticipated level of the outbreak and how the state can respond. The team is monitoring the insect, projecting how it will affect the wood supply for paper companies and sawmills, and developing forest management strategies. It's also looking into whether legislation will be necessary to aid landowner response.

"We know that it's coming, so we can't act with surprise when it gets here," said Wagner, who is director of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, formed in 1975 during the last spruce budworm outbreak.

That outbreak, which lasted from 1970 until 1985, killed 21 percent of all fir trees in the state by 1982, according to the Maine Forest Products Council. The defoliation of millions of acres of spruce and fir prompted insecticide spraying and spurred landowners to log large sections of forest before they lost all value. The response caused great alarm among environmentalists and led to the Forest Practices Act in 1989 to regulate harvesting.

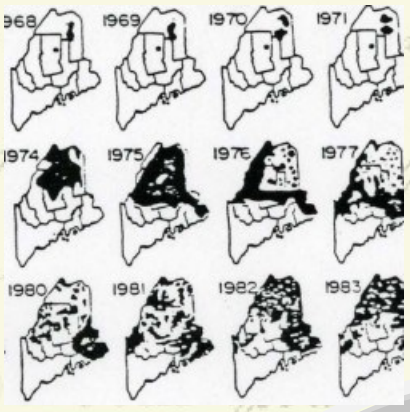
The spruce budworm is the immature stage of a grayish-brownish moth. As a larvae, it likes to eat balsam fir but will also munch on spruce. Outbreaks occur about every 30 to 60 years, and the extent of the infestation depends largely on the condition of the forest. Usually, there are so few of the insects that they can't be seen. But when trees get to an age where they provide the larvae with high-energy food and the number of insects grows larger than natural controls — such as birds, wasps and flies — the problem begins.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."
- Anne Bradstreet

The state maintains traps to attract moths and gauge population levels. This year, on average, the population in the traps increased four-fold compared with last year, indicating significant growth of the pest, said state entomologist Dave Struble. The insect has been spreading in Quebec and New Brunswick for awhile.

It is valuable to have a plan to address the impending infestation. But in the end it will be up to landowners and the state and federal government to follow the team's guidelines. People in northern Maine will most likely see the spruce budworm's effects — brown, dry sticks for trees — as there's no way to prevent the problem entirely. But Maine can learn from the past and mitigate the outbreak as much as possible. And it can inform the public along the way. Infestations typically last 10 to 15 years, so the response must be sustained. This slow-moving hurricane is on its way and will be here for a while.

Source: http://bangordailynews.com/2013/12/29/opinion/editorials/a-devastating-infestation-of-spruce-budworms-is-coming-and-we-need-to-be-ready/



Above: Photo by Jerald E. Dewey, USDA Forest Service
Left:Courtesy of University of Maine.
Maps show the spread of the spruce budworm throughout Maine in the 1970s and 1980s.

"In the sheltered heart of the clumps last year's foliage still clings to the lower branches, tatters of orange that mutter with the passage of the wind, the talk of old women warning the green generation of what they, too, must come to when the sap runs back."
- Jacquetta Hawkes

Community Wrap-up

"In the depths of winter I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."
- Albert Camus

Green Communities are Smart Communities

The Society of Municipal Arborists has recently developed a set of Urban Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for use by municipal arborists, planners, urban foresters, concerned citizens, green industry professionals, or anyone interested in creating and sustaining trees and green space in their communities. They are designed to be simple, easy to understand, and versatile for anyone wishing to explain, understand, or investigate the many ways in which green development makes good economic sense.

The series of BMP documents utilize imagery to describe various management techniques and benefits. Each is supplemented with a list of internet links providing greater detail, applicable tools, examples, and other citations to reinforce each topic.

Formatted into three main topics, the documents take a look at WHY trees are important to communities, WHERE trees fit into a community, and WHO works with and manages community trees. These colorful flyers are ideal for use at local events, as educational materials, or as support material for program development.

The BMP documents are free to download and distribute from this page.

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Calendar

January

25 Winter Family Fun Days Cobscook Bay State Park 726-4412
28 Federal Tax Workshops for Woodland Owners - Farmington www.franklincswcd.org

February

1 Winter Family Fun Days Mt Blue State Park 585-2261
5 ISA Certified Arborist Exam Boston, MA
10 Stream-Smart Road Crossing Workshop. Falmouth 781-2330 x222
13 Alfred Tracks, Alfred Town Hall 6:30pm
26-27 ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace - Sustaining the Living Landscape

Mapping Your Woodlot

The University of Maine Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters will host a two-part training session based on GPS usage for the members of SWOAM. This training would be best suited for someone who has some entry level experience with a GPS but who would like to learn some more advanced applications. You are encouraged to bring your own GPS unit and computer connection cord. Upon registration it would be helpful if you provided the make and model of the GPS unit you plan to bring. There may be access to a few spare units if bringing your own is not an option. Registration will be limited to ten participants who are expected to attend both parts.

PART 1: Collecting and Organizing Data in the Field
Saturday, January 25, 2014, 10 AM
BEAUREGARD WOODLANDS
Old Stagecoach Road
Old Town, Maine

PART 2: Data Analysis and Map Preparation
Saturday, February 1, 2014, 10AM
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
Wheatland Laboratory
Nutting Hall
Orono, Maine

Directions for Part 1: Take Route I-95 North or South to Old Town exit 197 (Route 43). Travel 3.2 miles and turn Right onto Old Stagecoach Road. Travel 0.5 miles to the Beauregard Woodlands access road is on the right. Look for the SWOAM sign.

Registration is required by January 20, 2014 and will be limited to 10 participants. Please respond by e-mail to Larry Beauregard, Penobscot Valley Chapter Leader, at redspruce@myfairpoint.net

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."
- Barbara Winkler

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